



School Health Services

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~ Preparing your child to start school: Required Health Information ~

Welcome to the Needham Public Schools!

School Health Services promotes the health and safety of students, supporting their achievement of optimal learning. The following is a summary of required health information that will assist you in preparing for your child's entry in to the Needham Public Schools or return to school. **The required documentation must be submitted for review by the school nurse in order for your child to start in the Needham Public Schools.** Contact information for your child's school nurse is available on the school district's website <http://www.needham.k12.ma.us/> and is also listed in the Health Services brochure.

Health History

The Health History Form providing important health and developmental history about your child must be completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to the school nurse prior to school entry of all students.

Physical Examinations

Each child needs to present to the school nurse a copy of the report of a physical examination that has occurred within 12 months prior to school entry or during the first 30 days after school entry. A copy of the report of a current physical examination is also required for all children entering into grades preschool, kindergarten, fourth, seventh, and tenth. If your child is participating in competitive athletics, physical exams are required annually.

Tuberculosis (TB) Testing

Documentation of the results of either:

- Screening for student's risk of tuberculosis exposure
- Testing for tuberculosis of students at high risk of exposure to tuberculosis.

Lead Poisoning Screening

Upon entry to kindergarten, each child must present documentation of results of lead poisoning screening, tested at ages 2- 5 years.

Preschool Vision Screening

Upon entry to kindergarten, each child must present documentation of results of vision screening done within the previous 12 months or within 30 days of the start of the school year and certification that the child passed acuity and stereopsis screenings.

Required Immunizations

State laws and regulations require that documentation of a student's immunization history is complete for grade level requirements prior to school entry. Exemption from immunization requirements, per the laws of Massachusetts, is acceptable only with documentation of medical or religious reasons. Grade level requirements are listed on the following chart:

Massachusetts School Immunization Requirements 2016

	Preschool	Kindergarten	Grade 1-5	Grades 6	Grades 7-12
Hepatitis B	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses	3 doses
DTaP/DTP/DT/Td/ Tdap	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP	5 doses DTaP/DTP	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP or ≥ 3 doses Td	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP or ≥ 3 doses Td	≥4 doses DTaP/DTP or ≥ 3 doses Td plus 1 Tdap booster
Polio	≥3 doses	4 doses	≥3 doses	≥3 doses	
Hib	1 to 4 doses	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required
MMR	1 dose	2 doses measles, 2 mumps, 2 rubella	2 doses measles, 2 mumps, 2 rubella	2 doses measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella	2 doses measles, 2 mumps, 2 rubella
Varicella	1 dose	2 doses	2 doses	1 dose	2 doses

Massachusetts Department of Public Health www.mass.gov/dph

Medication Administration

When a child requires medication administration (over-the-counter or prescription) during the school day, parents are required to contact the school nurse and provide (a) medication order from a licensed prescriber, (b) parental consent, and (c) medication in a pharmacy labeled container for no more than a 30 days supply. The administration of medications to children at school is managed by a school nurse with provisions for self-administration of selected medications, as determined by the school nurse. If your child will require medication administration during the school day, regularly, occasionally, or in an emergency, please contact the child's school nurse who will review with you the policies and procedures, and develop a medication administration plan.

Children with Special Health Care Needs

If your child has asthma, allergies, diabetes, seizures, attention deficit disorder, or any other medical or mental health condition requiring special health services in the school and/or is assisted with medical technology, it is vital that the parent meet with the school nurse and develop an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) prior to school entry.